

A Machinist's Experience

By Walter H.———

Being desirous of locating in Columbus I came over here and of course the first thing a working-man thinks about is a job, so I scouted around and found a job at the Marble Cliff Stone Quarries at my trade as machinist. Well the next thing on the program was to find a place for the wife and kiddies to live; then go back to the town I came from and notify the Company I had been working for that I was leaving their employ, then to make arrangements to move the household goods to Columbus.

Well I got the job on Friday and the following Tuesday I started to work and worked the rest of the week or until Saturday of the same week. Saturday afternoon the Master-Mechanic came to me and told me he had orders to cut the force and that he would have to lay me off. I asked him if there was anything wrong with my work and he told me that my work was alright but he had his orders and for me to come out Monday and he would fix me up about my pay.

Now this quarry is about five or six miles out of town on a traction line so I inquired and found out that the car company issued a book of low rate tickets to those who intended to use the cars regular so I invested three dollars in a book of forty tickets which are good for thirty days, after which time they are void for transportation and no refund is given for unused tickets. I used twelve of the tickets and the rest are of no value as they are not transferable.

Well I went out on Monday for my pay and after getting off the car I had to walk about a half mile to the master-mechanic's office, he gave me a red card which I was told to take to the store-room to have signed, then take the card to the quarry office which was about three-quarters of a mile from there and they would give me an order which I could have cashed at the store. I went to the quarry office and after some wait there I was given a paper stating the amount due me as wages and told to go to Dellaweese's grocery and they would cash it for me. This grocery I found was about one-half mile further down the road. Off to the grocery, arriving in due time, presented my order and was told I

would have to wait until Mr Dellaweese came in, some more wait, at last I got my money — but I am out of a job altogether now and must hunt further for one — I may have to go to another city for a job and that means further moving expenses, Oh well, life under the present system of society is just one d—thing after another, this is just one of the many of life's little tragedies as practised on thousands of the workers every day, and until the workers wake up to the fact the job should belong to the workers such outrages will continue to be practiced on them.

They should also remember that they must have an industrial organization to back up their political action. Oh, yes, this was supposed to be an open shop, but one of the questions I had to answer was this; Do you belong to a labor union? If so what union? It was unnecessary for me to ask the company if they belonged to the employers association.

BOY scouts are being used as scabs in the English gas-workers strike according to the London Daily Herald. The news has caused quite a stir in the English labor movement and has aroused a great opposition to the boy scout organization.

HERE are some figures for lovers of capitalism to chew upon. The American Red Cross reports that the number of lives lost in the recent capitalist war was 9,819,000. War epidemics and economic blockades took a toll of 5,301,000 and the fall of the birth rate is estimated at 20,000,000. This makes a total of 35,520,000 real and potential lives sacrificed on the altar of the Great God Mammon.

INCREASE of \$1.50 per day is given to the day men in the Illinois coal mines under an agreement reached by the operators' and diggers' representatives in the joint scale committee. This will make a scale of \$7.50 for eight hours work. Nothing is said in the agreement, however, about how few days a miner shall work per week, this point being left to the whims of the operators and the alleged car shortage.